

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 AGR-05 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CIEP-01 OMB-01 /074 W

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R 301315Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0998

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 2982

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AR

SUBJECT: UCR NATIONAL CONVENTION ADOPTS STRONGER LINE OF  
OPPOSITION TO GOA

REF: BA-2947

1. THE UCR NATIONAL CONVENTION WHICH MET ON APRIL 25-26  
ADOPTED A MUCH HARDER LINE OF OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT.  
THIS CAME AS NO SURPRISE. EMBOFF HAD BEEN TOLD LAST WEEK  
BY PERONIST SOURCE WHO HAD ACTED AS INTERMEDIARY THAT  
RICARDO BALBIN HAD SENT PRIVATE MESSAGE TO INTERIOR MINISTER  
ROCAMORA WARNING THAT UNLESS SIGNIFICANT ADJUSTMENTS WERE  
MADE IN GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH, MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH WAS  
DEFENESTRATION OF LOPEZ REGA, BALBIN WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE  
BUT TO HEED PRESSURES FROM WITHIN UCR FOR A HARSHER FORM  
OF OPPOSITION. SAME SOURCE COMMENTED THAT FACT THAT BALBIN  
HAD SENT MESSAGE TO ROCAMORA SUGGESTED HE HAD SENT IT ONLY  
AS A MATTER OF FORM, SINCE HE KNEW FULL WELL ROCAMORA DID  
NOT HAVE IT IN HIS POWER TO BRING ABOUT THOSE ADJUSTMENTS.  
FURTHER, BALBIN HAD ALREADY MADE SAME APPEALS TO MRS. PERON  
TO NO AVAIL IN HIS APRIL 16 MEETING WITH HER.

2. GIVEN GOVERNMENT'S BRAZEN POWER PLAY IN SENATE  
THAT MORNING (SEE REFTTEL), AND CONTINUED ABSENCE OF  
ANY KIND OF MEANINGFUL GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO UCR  
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APPEALS FOR RESUMPTION OF CONSENSUS POLITICS (BALBIN'S

APRIL 16 MEETING PRODUCED A COMPLETE ZERO), UCR CONVENTION WAS EXPECTED TO OPEN ON AFTERNOON APRIL 25 WITH STRONG CRITICISM OF MRS. PERON'S GOVERNMENT. IT DID. EVEN ANTONIO TROCCOLI, HEAD OF UCR BLOC IN CHAMBER AND FORMERLY ONE OF FOREMOST CHAMPIONS OF POLICY OF COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT, LAMBASTED GOVERNMENT AND CHARGED THAT INTERNAL STRIFE WITHIN PERONIST MOVEMENT ITSELF WAS MAKING CONDITIONS FOR DEMOCRACY IMPOSSIBLE. SENATOR PERETTE GAVE BITING REPORT ON WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN SENATE THAT MORNING, AND THEN PLACED BLAME FOR CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE SQUARELY ON PERONIST GOVERNMENT, WHICH CONDONED ATROCITIES OF RIGHT-WING GOON SQUADS. PERETTE DECLARED THAT OVER 400 HAD BEEN KILLED AND 800 WOUNDED IN VIOLENT CLASH BETWEEN LEFT-AND RIGHT-WING PERONISTS ON OCCASION OF PERON'S HOMECOMING IN JUNE OF 1973, YET ONLY ONE ARREST AND NO INDICTMENTS HAD BEEN MADE AND RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION, IF ONE ACTUALLY CARRIED OUT, HAD NEVER BEEN MADE PUBLIC. OVER 400 POLITICAL MURDERS HAD BEEN PERPETRATED THIS YEAR, YET IN MOST CASES NO ARRESTS WERE EVER MADE.

3. CONVENTION CLOSED WITH ISSUANCE OF AN ELEVEN-POINT STATEMENT SHARPLY CRITICIZING GOVERNMENT ON HANDLING OF ECONOMY, AGRICULTURAL POLICY, CLIMATE OF VIOLENCE, FAILURE TO PROTECT INSTITUTIONS, UNNECESSARY INTERVENTION OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS, ETC. APPARENTLY, STATEMENT AS ISSUED WAS A SOMEWHAT MODIFIED VERSION OF A DRAFT WHICH WAS CALLED BACK AT LAST MINUTE BECAUSE IT WAS SO STRONG THAT ITS ISSUANCE WOULD HAVE LED TO AN IMMEDIATE BREAK BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES. AS IT WAS, THE ISSUED STATEMENT WAS FORCEFUL AND CARRIED POINTED CRITICISM, BUT IT ENDED UP BY CALLING ON GOVERNMENT TO MEND ITS WAYS--THUS SUGGESTING THAT UCR HAS NOT GIVEN UP HOPE. IN FACT, HOWEVER, MOST UCR SOURCES INDICATE THEY NO LONGER HAVE ANY HOPES THAT MRS. PERON'S GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE ADJUSTMENTS; RATHER, THEY EXPECT IT TO ABANDON CONSENSUS POLITICS ALTOGETHER. BUT, THEY SAY, SINCE THEY ARE NOT YET CERTAIN WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT, OTHER THAN PROTEST, IT IS BETTER NOT TO CLOSE THEIR DOORS TO GOVERNMENT AT THIS TIME.  
HILL

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